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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/854,133	05/11/2001	Michael J. Lodes	210121.475C10	6805

500 7590 10/16/2002

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EXAMINER

MARTINELL, JAMES

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1631

DATE MAILED: 10/16/2002

b

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/854,133

Applicant(s)

LODES ET AL.

Examiner

James Martinell

Art Unit

1631

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-17 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: ____.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 14, and 15, drawn to nucleic acids, vectors, host cells, probes, nucleic acid assays, and kits, classified in class 536, subclass 23.5 and class 435, subclasses 6, 325, and 320.1.
- II. Claims 2 and 7, drawn to polypeptides and fusion proteins, classified in class 530, subclass 350.
- III. Claims 5 and 16, drawn to antibodies and kits, classified in class 530, subclass 387.1.
- IV. Claim 6, drawn to polypeptide binding assays, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1.

Claims 9-13 and 17 are ungrouped because they are improper multiple dependent claims. See MPEP 608.01(n).

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons. The nucleic acids, host cells and vectors of Group I are materially different from and are therefore independent and distinct from the polypeptides of Group II and the antibodies of Group III. The methods of Groups I and IV may be practiced independently of one another. The methods of Group I are not need to produce the polypeptides of Group II or the antibodies of Group III. The polypeptides of Group II are materially different from the antibodies of Group III and are therefore independent and distinct from the antibodies of Group III. The antibodies and kits of Group III have uses other than in the methods of Group IV (for example in affinity chromatography). The methods of Group IV can use any molecule that binds the polypeptide, and is not limited to the use of antibodies of Group III.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their different classification and recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

To search any two groups as outlined above would create an undue burden for the U.S. PTO because the searches of the non-patent literature are not only non-overlapping to any appreciable extent, but are also divergent in nature.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 14, and 15 are drawn to nucleotides, nucleotide constructs, and/or methods requiring the use of nucleotides or nucleotide constructs that contain more than ten individual, independent, and distinct nucleotide sequences in alternative form. Accordingly, these claims are subject to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as outlined in 1192 O.G. 68 (November 19, 1996). This notice permits the examination of from one to ten independent and distinct nucleotide sequences in a single application based upon USPTO resources.

Applicant is required to select no more than ONE of the individual sequences for examination. The search of the no more than ONE selected sequences may include the complements of the selected sequences and, where appropriate, may include subsequences within the selected sequences (*e.g.*, oligomeric probes and/or primers).

Claims 2, 5-7, and 16 are drawn to a large number of unrelated, independent, and distinct polypeptides or methods requiring the use of a large number of unrelated, independent, and distinct polypeptides. Should applicants elect any one of Groups II-IV for examination, applicants are further required to select one polypeptide or a set of methods that requires the use of one polypeptide for examination on the merits.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Martinell whose telephone number is (703) 308-0296. The fax phone number for Examiner Martinell's desktop workstation is (703) 746-5162. The examiner works a flexible schedule and can be reached by phone and voice mail. Alternatively, a request for a return telephone call may be e-

mailed to james.martinell@uspto.gov. Since e-mail communications may not be secure, it is suggested that information in such requests be limited to name, phone number, and the best time to return the call.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward, can be reached on (703) 305-4028. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.



**James Martinell, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1631**